

FCC MAIL SECTION

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

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In the matter of

Amendment of Section 73.202(b)
Table of Allotments,
FM Broadcast Stations.
(Big Pine Key, Florida)

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MB Docket No. 04-248
RM-10990

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**Adopted: July 7, 2004****Released: July 9, 2004****Comment Date: August 30, 2004****Reply Comment Date: September 14, 2004**

By the Assistant Chief, Audio Division:

1. The Audio Division has before it for consideration a Petition for Rule Making filed by Call Communications Group ("Petitioner"), requesting the reservation of vacant Channel 239A at Big Pine Key, Florida for noncommercial educational use ("NCE"). Petitioner states that it will file an application for Channel 239A at Big Pine Key, if reserved for NCE.

2. In the *Reexamination of the Comparative Standards for Noncommercial Educational Applicants* ("NCE Report and Order"), the Commission established revised criteria by which a rulemaking proponent may reserve an FM allotment for NCE use.¹ Under the expanded criteria, a proponent must demonstrate that it is technically precluded from using a reserved channel (Channels 200 through 220) and the proposal would provide a first and/or second NCE radio service to at least 10 percent of the population within the 1 mV/m contour of the proposed station. Originally, the Commission limited this expanded reservation criteria to future allotment proceedings. Thereafter, the Commission extended the expanded criteria to existing vacant FM allotments for which a Notice of Proposed Rule Making had been released prior to August 7, 2000, the effective date of the *NCE Report and Order*.² In a Public Notice released September 30, 2003, we invited petitions for rule making to reserve vacant FM allotments for NCE use pursuant to the *NCE Second Report and Order*.³ In response to the Public Notice, we received 129 petitions for the reservation of 91 allotments.

¹ 15 FCC Rcd 7386 (2000). Previously, the Commission would only reserve a channel in the nonreserved FM band (Channels 221 through 300) if the petitioner demonstrated that no reserved channel could be used without causing prohibited interference to a Channel 6 TV station or a foreign broadcast station.

² *Reexamination of the Comparative Standards for Noncommercial Educational Applicants* ("NCE Second Report and Order"), 18 FCC Rcd 6691 (2003).

³ *Media Bureau Opens Window to Permit Noncommercial Educational Reservation Showings for Certain Vacant FM Allotments*, 18 FCC Rcd 19600 (MB 2003).

3. Based upon our preliminary study, the Petitioner has demonstrated compliance with the expanded criteria set forth in the *NCE Report and Order*.⁴ We find that the public interest could be served by proposing the reservation of the Channel 239A at Big Pine Key for NCE use. As such, we will not entertain counterproposals or any proposal to modify the underlying allotment other than reserving the allotment for NCE use. Instead, a party may file rebuttal comments identifying a site at which a reserved channel could be assigned with facilities fully equivalent to the proposed reserved allotment. Such an alternate reserved channel proposal also must satisfy the first and/or second NCE radio service criterion. In addition, a party may file comments demonstrating that the reservation proposal would not, in fact, provide a first and/or second NCE radio service to ten percent of the population within the 1 mV/m contour of the proposed station.

4. Accordingly, we seek comment on the proposed amendment of the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules, with respect to Big Pine Key, Florida.

<u>Community</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Big Pine Key, Florida	239A, 281C1	*239A, 281C1

5. The Commission's authority to institute rule making proceedings, showings required, cut-off procedures, and filing requirements are contained in the attached Appendix and are incorporated by reference herein. In particular, we note that a showing of continuing interest is required in paragraph 2 of the Appendix before a channel will be allotted.

6. Pursuant to Sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's Rules, interested parties may file comments on or before August 30, 2004, and reply comments on or before September 14, 2004, and are advised to read the Appendix for the proper procedures. Comments should be filed with the Federal Communications Commission, Office of the Secretary, 445 Twelfth Street, SW, TW-A325, Washington, D.C. 20554. Additionally, a copy of such comments should be served on the petitioner, as follows:

Call Communications Group
P.O. Box 561832
Miami, Florida 33256-1832

7. Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and four copies of each filing. Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail (although we continue to experience delays in receiving U.S. Postal Service mail). The Commission's contractor, Natek, Inc., will receive hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary at 236 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Suite 110, Washington, D.C. 20002. The filing hours at this location are 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes must be disposed of before entering the building. Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail or Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743. U.S. Postal Service first-class mail, Express Mail, and Priority Mail should be addressed to 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20554. All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.

⁴ The reference coordinates for Channel *239A at Big Pine Key, FL are 24-40-0 North Latitude and 81-21-0 West Longitude.

8. The Commission has determined that the relevant provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to a rule making proceeding to amend the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules.⁵

9. For further information concerning a proceeding listed above, contact Rolanda F. Smith, Media Bureau (202) 418-2180. For purposes of this restricted notice and comment rule making proceeding, members of the public are advised that no *ex parte* presentations are permitted from the time the Commission adopts a Notice of Proposed Rule Making until the proceeding has been decided and such decision in the applicable docket is no longer subject to reconsideration by the Commission or review by any court. An *ex parte* presentation is not prohibited if specifically requested by the Commission or staff for the clarification or adduction of evidence or resolution of issues in the proceeding. However, any new written information elicited from such a request or any summary of any new information shall be served by the person making the presentation upon the other parties to the proceeding in particular docket unless the Commission specifically waives this service requirement. Any comment which has not been served on the petitioner constitutes an *ex parte* presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding. Any reply comment which has not been served on the person(s) who filed the comment, to which the reply is directed, constitutes an *ex parte* presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

John A. Karousos
Assistant Chief, Audio Division
Media Bureau

Attachment: Appendix

⁵ See Certification that Section 603 and 604 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act Do Not Apply to Rule Making to Amend Sections 73.202(b), 73.504 and 73.606(b) of the Commission's Rules. 46 FR 11549 (February 9, 1981).

APPENDIX

1. Pursuant to authority found in Sections 4(i), 5(c)(1), 303(g) and (r), and 307(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and Sections 0.61, 0.204(b) and 0.283 of the Commission's Rules, IT IS PROPOSED TO AMEND the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, as set forth in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached.

2. Showings Required. Comments are invited on the proposal(s) discussed in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached. Proponent(s) will be expected to answer whatever questions are presented in initial comments. The proponent of a proposed allotment is also expected to file comments even if it only resubmits or incorporates by reference its former pleadings. It should also restate its present intention to apply for the channel if it is allotted and, if authorized, to build a station promptly. Failure to file may lead to denial of the request.

3. Cut-off protection. The following procedures will govern the consideration of filings in this proceeding.

(a) Counterproposals advanced in this proceeding itself will be considered, if advanced in initial comments, so that parties may comment on them in reply comments. They will not be considered if advanced in reply comments. (See Section 1.420(d) of the Commission's Rules).

(b) With respect to petitions for rule making which conflict with the proposals in this *Notice*, they will be considered as comments in the proceeding, and Public Notice to this effect will be given as long as they are filed before the date for filing initial comments herein. If they are filed later than that, they will not be considered in connection with the decision in this docket.

(c) The filing of a counterproposal may lead the Commission to allot a different channel than was requested for any of the communities involved.

4. Comments and Reply Comments; Service. Pursuant to applicable procedures set out in Sections 1.415 and 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, interested parties may file comments and reply comments on or before the dates set forth in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached. All submissions by parties to this proceeding or by persons acting on behalf of such parties must be made in written comments, reply comments, or other appropriate pleadings. Comments shall be served on the petitioner by the person filing the comments. Reply comments shall be served on the person(s) who filed comments to which the reply is directed. Such comments and reply comments shall be accompanied by a certificate of service. (See Section 1.420(a), (b) and (c) of the Commission's Rules.) Comments should be filed with the Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, S.W., TW-A325, Washington, D.C. 20554.

5. Number of Copies. In accordance with the provisions of Section 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, an original and four copies of all comments, reply comments, pleadings, briefs, or other documents shall be furnished the Commission.

6. Public Inspection of Filings. All filings made in this proceeding will be available for examination by interested parties during regular business hours in the Commission's Reference Information Center (Room CY-A257) at its headquarters, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C.